

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
For East Meon Parish Council held at the Village Hall  
At 7.00pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Present:** Parish Councillors including Cllr Susan Davenport (Chair), Mrs Sarah Cowlrick (Responsible Financial Officer), Mrs Suzie Brooker (Proper Officer) and 43 Parishioners.

**Apologies for absence were received from:** Cllr Sharon Silence, Cllr Steven Ridgeon, Mrs Sue Atkinson, Mr Frank Moffat, Mr & Mrs Andy Hales, Mrs Melanie Lewin, Mr Neal Croft, Mrs Diana Dudley-Williams, Ms Sally Farmer.

The Counsellors present introduced themselves. Cllr Davenport thanked Mrs Sarah Cowlrick for all her hard work over the years as Parish Clerk and presented her with flowers.

1. **Minutes of the last Parish Assembly** (April 2017) had been circulated and posted on the Parish website. They were signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Mr A Dudley-Williams and seconded by Mr W Tyrwhitt-Drake.
2. **Chair's Report** had been posted on the village website, but not in Meon Matters this year since there had not been an April edition.
3. **Financial Report**

The Responsible Financial Officer, Sarah Cowlrick, presented an overview of the accounts for the Parish Council for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. A comprehensive breakdown was available for all those attending. She advised that Income was exactly as expected with the exception of a small difference on the interest and £1000 grant which was for the implantation of speed awareness signs in the village, the cost of which will come into the 18/19 year. The total expenditure not including the Capital Expenses was £561.18 over budget but this she explained included some vital remedial works to meet safety standards for the play equipment and a water leak in the Pavilion plus an over budget total of donations to CPRE, CAB, EMPCC, Poppy Appeal, The Rosemary Foundation and a contribution to the defibrillator at the village hall. The capital expenses were detailed which included Repairs to Fiveways, A gate and tree and hedge works. The Neighbourhood Plan balance held by the Parish Council stood at £989.90 and was expected to be depleted by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The balance of monies held when the VAT had been returned would be £21,203.17. Mrs Cowlrick advised that Councillors take the responsibility of overseeing public money very seriously and had in her opinion spent the precept wisely this year, she went on to say that she had recommended to the Council that they consider not increasing the Precept next year as the reserves were healthy. Mrs Cowlrick went on to present the predicted near balanced Budget for 2018/2019. A member of the public enquired whether the leak was in the Pavilion

or the Allotments and Mrs Cowlrick confirmed that it was in the Pavilion. Mrs Cowlrick was thanked for her reports.

#### 4. **County Council & District Reports**

County & District Cllr Robert Mocatta was unable at short notice to attend the meeting. Cllr Mocatta was thanked for the invaluable work he does for the Parish.

#### 5. **Parish Forum**

The Chair introduced Simon Mortimore to speak on behalf of the Village Hall Committee.

Mr Mortimore explained that the Village Hall is there to drive cohesion in the community. He asked what the Committee could do to help the community and requested that ideas be put forward from Parishioners. Mr Mortimore also stressed the need for more volunteers.

The Chair introduced Mr Ron Ingerson to speak on behalf of the Meon Matters team.

Mr Ingerson reported back on a recent meeting with the village which had been well attended, with positive discussion and wide ranging views expressed. He explained that Meon Matters desperately needed funding. They had received £1000 in donations but needed more. The amount donated would dictate the future format of the magazine. Mr Ingerson thanked Lesley Bussell and Roxie Bateman for their support in keeping the magazine going through a difficult period.

The Chair opened the meeting to the floor to ask questions:

##### **Speeding**

A resident raised concerns about speeding in the village. Cllr Carney confirmed that a mobile illuminated sign had been ordered and would be placed at the 4 entrances to the village in rotation. He reported that Hampshire County Council would not introduce speeding controls unless there is a fatality.

##### **Parking**

A resident raised concern about the number of cars parking on the green space in Duncombe Road. The Chair suggested that our PCSO could help with this and went on to report that the Parish Council is in discussion about the parking situation by the school.

A resident asked about parking opposite the Radian car park. The Chair acknowledged this is a problem and undertook to look at solutions.

## **Trees**

A resident suggested that the overhanging Leylandi by the bus stop be cut back. The Chair said she did not know if it was on private property, Parish Council or Hampshire County Council land and confirmed she would ask the Tree Warden to look into it.

## **Frogmore Car Park**

A resident requested an update on Frogmore Car Park. The Chair explained the history of the car park and that the Parish Council had met with the residents to discuss the situation. She emphasised that all options were being investigated.

Another resident also raised his concerns. The Chair assured him that she would take all views on board and will keep the Parish informed.

## **Roads**

A resident asked about potholes in the village. Cllr Carney said that Hampshire County Council have a Pothole Buster team and that the road between East and West Meon had been prioritised. He asked everyone to act and report issues to Hampshire County Council. Cllr Atkinson suggested using the "Fix my Street" app and explained the benefits of this.

A resident noted a positive outcome from the work carried out at Pidham.

A resident wished to know if there was a long-term solution to flooding in Frogmore Lane. Cllr Carney confirmed that there was very little that could be done at the moment but asked that any blocked drains be reported to himself.

A resident said she was delighted by the ban on motorbikes at Fiveways during the summer, but asked why the area was also closed by Hampshire County Council to all walkers, cyclists and riders. Cllr Carney explained the Hampshire County Council was happy for the area to be used by walkers, cyclists and riders but not motorcyclists whilst the land was recovering and being restored.

## **6. Annual Parish Award**

Cllr Tywhitt-Drake presented Roger and Sue Young with the Parish Award.

At 7.50pm the Chair introduced the Guest Speaker and the formal part of the meeting was closed.